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The Fierce Green Fire

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



A center pivot irrigation is the focus of Coxe's Capstone Project.



Volume 2, Issue 20

Tonight

7:30pm in McMillan

Speaker Thom Kay '07
Legislative Associate for
Appalachian Voice

Kay is working with Congress to pass a bill that will outlaw the destruction of our mountains and streams.

“Circles of Rice: A Study of the Future Sustainability of Rice Production Under Center Pivot Irrigation” by Cam Coxe

For my Environmental Capstone Project I researched a newly developed agricultural practice for growing rice under center pivot irrigation. I chose rice cultivation because it's my family business and one of the most important crops in the world.

Today rice provides over 1/5 of all the calories consumed by humans every year and is the major food source for China and India, the two most populated countries in the world. The most significant environmental concern about rice production is the large amounts of water needed to grow rice in flooded fields.

The center pivot irrigation system offers farmers a more efficient and sustainable method of irrigation while not compromising

their crop's yield by directly applying water and chemicals to the plant's root system. Keeping rice constantly flooded also causes methane, a prominent greenhouse gas, to be released from bacteria in the submerged soil. Rice grown under center pivot irrigation releases virtually no methane and prevents many of the other negative environmental side affects that come with traditional rice production.

In conclusion to my research I found that in the future, growing rice under center pivot irrigation would most likely be sustainable in countries like Northern China, India, Pakistan, and the United States.



Cam Coxe on family's farm with irrigation system in the background.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

March 25 th	Deadline for Summer Internship with Greenville Zoo: Learn about horticulture and maintenance at Greenville Zoo. The non-paying, 8-week summer program requires a minimum of 16 hours a week. Internships are also available for the fall semester. Those applications are due June 1 st . See Dr. Savage or Professor Lane for more details.
March 26 th	Two Wheel Power Hour: Brian Richardson will be on campus to demonstrate his electric motorcycle. 3:00pm - 4:00pm in the Anna Todd Wofford Center.
March 26 th	“I’ll have lipids with my dinner tonight, please!”: Wofford graduate, Heidi Bostic will be here to discuss her current work as a Chemistry graduate student. 6:00pm in Phase V, Room 113. Bring your dinner and join the talk.
March 27 th	The Green Screen Film Series: <i>The Last Mountain</i> is the next documentary in this series. 7:00pm at The Showroom. Admission is free. Each event features a panel discussion and offers audience participation.
March 29 th – 30 th	SustainSC Conference: US Building Council – SC Chapter will host its 4 th annual green building and sustainable communities conference and expo in Greenville. See Dr. Savage if you are interested in registering for this conference.
March 31 st	Spring Migratory Bird Walk: Sponsored by the Greenville Bird Club. Meet at 8:00am on the Cottonwood Trail at the Beechwood Drive parking area.
April 1 st	Deadline for Wilderness and Civilization Program: The University of Montana’s Wilderness Institute is accepting applications for their fall 2012 program. Spend the semester exploring and studying in the Northern Rockies. Visit http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wc/ for more information about the program.
April 1 st	Deadline for Colorado Ecosystem Field Studies: This program is now accepting applications for 2 summer sessions, June 12-28 or July 24-August 9. Earn 3 undergraduate transfer credits while hiking and camping in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Visit www.ecofs.org for more information.
April 13 th -14 th	“Energy for the Future”: The 2012 Annual South Carolina Academy of Science Meeting will be held at USC Aiken. If you are interested in going, come by the ENVS office and talk to Dr. Savage.

GRAD SCHOOL PROFILE:

University of Montana – Environmental Studies Program

The University of Montana offers a MS degree in Environmental Studies (EVST) and a joint MS/JD degree in EVST and their Law Program.

The Masters degree in EVST is flexible. Students can design their own study programs with focus areas in Environmental Education, Environmental Justice, Environmental Law, Environmental Science, Environmental Writing, Sustainable Food and Farming, and other courses of interest throughout the University.

Along with their study interests there are opportunities for students to get involved with

groups outside the classroom. *Camas* is an environmental journal that is edited and published by EVST graduate students each semester.

Transboundary Initiative is a collaborative program between students at UM and the University of Calgary in Canada “focusing on the trans-border ecosystem straddling the spine of the Rockies.” These are just two of the many on-going projects UM graduate students are involved in.

Visit <http://www.cas.umt.edu/evst/grad/> for more information.